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BENNETT COMMENDS HATCH FOR "VIGOROUS" CAMPAIGN

Joins him to work for nomination and election of George W. Bush

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah) issued the following statement on today's announcement by Sen. Orrin Hatch that he will no longer be a candidate for president of the United States:

"I'm extremely proud of Sen. Hatch for having waged such a vigorous campaign. Like the energizer bunny, Orrin has competed with tireless energy and great determination.

"By joining the race late, where Gov. George W. Bush was already the clear front runner, Orrin understood that he was facing very long odds. We believed that if the front runner stumbled, Sen. Hatch was clearly the best choice for the Republican nomination; but the governor has not stumbled, and I believe will win the nomination and the presidency. I'm delighted to join with Orrin in working to bring this about."

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<http://www.senate.gov/~bennett>